

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 are pending.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinichi et al. (JP 11283127) in view of Ikeda (US Patent No. 5,937,391).

According to the foregoing, the claims are amended and cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, and, thus, the pending claims remain for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added.

REJECTION

The independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 9 appear to be rejected over Shinichi, Walker and Ikeda. Walker and Ikeda are newly cited.

Although the Office Action of June 1, 2007 cited Walker, the rejection does not comply with 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2), because the rejection does not designate which part of Walker is relied upon to reject a claimed feature of the embodiments. A supplemental Office Action was mailed September 5, 2007 correcting the rejection of claims to over Shinichi and Ikeda. Accordingly, this amendment is fully responsive under 37 CFR 1.111 to the Office Action of June 1, 2007 by traversing the rejection based upon Shinichi and Ikeda.

The claimed embodiments are patentably distinguishing over Shinichi and Ikeda, because they fail to disclose, either expressly or implicitly, the claimed "use status of each requested number of reserved points." The Office Action relies upon Shinichi paragraphs 9 and 54, which merely discuss reading pre-printed ticket management data from a paper ticket, printing issuance information on the ticket, and storing the read management data and ticket issuance information of the issued ticket into the host computer. Shinichi paragraph 11 discusses the management data is pre-printed on the paper ticket and ticket issuance information printed on the paper ticket is issued date. Shinichi is silent on the claimed "***use status of each requested number of reserved points.***" Further, Shinichi does not generate

any recognition codes, but uses the ticket management data 2b preprinted on the paper tickets 2 (see paragraph 11 and FIG. 2 of Shinichi).

Further, Ikeda is relied upon for discussing redeeming points from a plurality of shops, but is silent on the claimed "***use status of each requested number of reserved points.***"

Further, dependent claim 2 is amended into independent form and further amended. A prima facie case of obviousness based upon Shinichi and Ikeda cannot be established, because there is no evidence, either expressly or implicitly, that one skilled in the art would modify Shinichi's management data 2b as printed in advance on a paper ticket and Ikeda's discussion of point redemption from a plurality of shops, to provide the claimed "***generating recognition codes for each requested number of reserved points*** from any one of the plurality of point-use facilities from among the accumulated number of points", providing a "***use status of each requested number of reserved points***" and "***determining a point use ticket is usable*** whether the number of reserved points is usable in accordance with by verifying a reference request from a point usable facility transmitting ... the number of reserved points and the generated recognition code of the point use ticket, with the use management database including verifying the use status of the referenced number of reserved points for the generated recognition code from the point usable facilities," and seen one example benefit of checking whether a point-use ticket is valid by having been used or unused. For example, the present application page 10, lines 10-24 and page 16, lines 10-30 support the claimed embodiments.

Dependent claims recite patentably distinguishing features of their own, or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from the independent claims.

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, it is believed the claims are in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection of pending claims and allowance of pending claims is respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: 
Mehdi Sheikerz
Registration No. 41,307

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501